

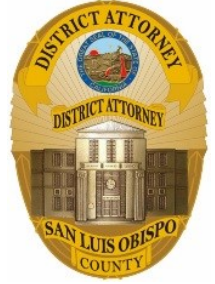
Dan Dow
District Attorney

Lee V. Cunningham
Assistant District Attorney

Jerret C. Gran
Chief Deputy District Attorney

Sheryl M. Wolcott
Chief Deputy District Attorney

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
County of San Luis Obispo



*** * * * *PRESS RELEASE* * * * ***

**JOHN VENCENT GAINES, II CONVICTED OF NINE
COUNTS OF CHILD MOLESTATION BY PLEA**

Sentencing Set for 8/13/2015

149512

Release Number

July 3, 2015

Release Date

Approved By

Lee Cunningham
Assistant District Attorney
Contact Person (805)781-5800

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – On Thursday, July 2nd, immediately prior to the beginning of trial by jury, John Vencent Gaines II, entered pleas of no contest to nine felony counts of child molestation for acts committed in the City of Arroyo Grande between May and August 1999 on a victim who was only eight years old at the time of the offenses.

Two of the nine counts were violations of Penal Code section 288(b), *forcible* lewd act on a child under the age of 14. The remaining seven counts were alleged without the additional element of physical force. Although the case was initially reported to law enforcement in 2005, the investigation was not completed until late in 2013.

“It takes tremendous courage for a victim of child sexual abuse to report what happened to them. This plea to every count charged is an important step towards bringing closure and healing to the victim,” said District Attorney Dan Dow.

Cases such as these are prosecuted by the District Attorney’s Sexual Assault and Child Abuse vertical prosecution unit, supervised by Assistant District Attorney Lee Cunningham. Deputy District Attorney Linda Dunn prosecuted the case and the Arroyo Grande Police Department is the law enforcement agency that investigated the case.

The defendant faces a possible sentence of 34 years in state prison and will be sentenced on August 13, 2015 in Dept. 9.

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